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DAVID SANDERS, PH.D.  
Director

**County of Los Angeles**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**  
425 Shatto Place -- Los Angeles, California 90020  
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September 12, 2005

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Chair Pro Tem  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: David Sanders, Ph.D.  
Director

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "DS" or similar initials, written over the printed name "David Sanders, Ph.D.".

**SEPTEMBER 6, 2005 BOARD AGENDA ITEM #65-A AS AMENDED BY  
SUPERVISOR BURKE: HURRICANE KATRINA TASK FORCE**

The Department has determined that 85 children placed with relatives/foster parents/adoptive parents resided in the Gulf Coast area when Hurricane Katrina hit. Following the disaster, DCFS staff engaged in a concerted effort to locate and verify the safety of these children. We are pleased to state that all 85 children have been located and are safe.

The success of this search is due in part to the dedication of the staff involved in the effort. In order to locate these children, social workers have used a variety of resources and methods to circulate information regarding the plight of these children, including the following:

- Last known addresses and previous contact information on file with the Department and with the minors' attorneys were reviewed in hopes of identifying other relatives who might have heard from the affected families.
- The Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS), a computerized statewide case management system, was searched for other possible contact leads for the children.
- Names of the children were circulated at evacuee locations in the Gulf Coast area, such as command center operations at the Houston Astro Arena Clinic and the George R. Brown Convention Center (Houston).

- Various Internet links for missing children were utilized, such as [www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com); PublicPeopleLocator.com; and the Central Registry of Missing Children and Safe Persons.
- Searches were initiated through the American Red Cross Family Links Hotline and the State of California Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC), a nationwide network that oversees out of state placements.

The Department appreciates the support of the Board with this effort as provided through the Board motion calling for an all out search, including incorporating assistance from other government agencies.

I will be available to answer questions regarding this matter at the Board meeting on September 13, 2005. If you have any additional questions, please call me or your staff may contact Helen Berberian, Manager, Board Relations Section at (213) 351-5530.

DS:AC:  
SN:BB:bjn

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors



**THOMAS L. GARTHWAITE, M.D.**  
Director and Chief Medical Officer

**FRED LEAF**  
Chief Operating Officer

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September 13, 2005

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D.  
Director and Chief Medical Officer

for Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director of Public Health and Health Officer

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS OF HURRICANE KATRINA**

On September 6, 2005, the Board approved a motion by Supervisor Burke, instructing the Director of Public Health and Health Officer to provide a report to the Board at the September 13, 2005 meeting concerning the public health implications of Hurricane Katrina and provide recommendations on any ways in which Los Angeles County could assist with the public health aspects of the recovery and rebuilding. This is the response to that motion.

**Public Health Implications:**

There are significant public health implications for those persons affected by Hurricane Katrina. Those who remain in areas without potable water, electricity, and adequate safe food, face significant risks of dehydration, malnourishment, and gastro-intestinal illness. It should be noted, however, that severe diarrheal illnesses, such as cholera are not anticipated. Mosquito borne illnesses, such as those caused by West Nile virus are a concern for those who remain, because of the standing water that facilitates mosquito breeding. Both those who remain and those who have evacuated who have chronic illnesses face significant hurdles in accessing ongoing care, including difficulties in obtaining prescription pharmaceuticals. Those who are sheltered in other areas should be screened for both communicable and chronic conditions.



**Offers of Assistance:**

When the magnitude of damage caused by Hurricane Katrina was recognized and a determination was made by the Michael Leavitt, Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), on August 31, 2005 that a Public Health Emergency exists, we contacted to offer public health assistance to areas affected by Hurricane Katrina in the form of public health experts needed in the affected areas, including: acute communicable disease control, environmental health, and toxics epidemiology experts.

On September 3, our offer of a team of Public Health staff was confirmed to have been received and referred to Group Deployments, Office of Force Readiness and Deployment (OFRD), HHS. On September 4, HHS indicated that the best mechanism for volunteering was for interested staff to fill out individual applications. HHS indicated it will pay travel and living expenses of those DHS staff deployed.

Subsequently, HHS indicated that they would be willing to receive a team, rather than just individuals. We provided them names of individuals who are willing to volunteer and gave a point of contact. On September 9, OFRD wrote "that the personnel in Human Resources are working very hard to process all applications and get the healthcare providers credentialed. We greatly appreciate you and your team's willingness to volunteer." We understand that over 26,000 persons have registered to volunteer. We will continue to identify staff who wish to volunteer and provide their names to HHS.

**Deployment of Public Health with County Team:**

Based on the interstate assistance request of the State of Louisiana for assistance to the City of New Orleans, Dr. Fielding and Arturo Aguirre, Director of Environmental Health, were deployed as part of the Los Angeles County team to New Orleans. They have been working with the City Health Director, who is being assisted by staff from the CDC. Dr. Fielding has assisted with short-term and longer-term plans for public health services and Mr. Aguirre has assisted with plans to reopen certain food facilities and lodging.

**Services to Evacuees in Los Angeles County:**

The Department has been working with the Task Force of County and County-related agencies which are providing services to those who have already reached Los Angeles and planning for services to evacuees who may be relocated subsequently. The report to the Board on that effort is being coordinated by the Chief Administrative Office.

Each Supervisor  
September 13, 2005  
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We will continue to keep the Board informed of the status of our offers of Public Health support to the areas most affected by Hurricane Katrina. If you have any questions or need additional information, please let either of us know.

TLG:JEF:lm  
509:006

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors



County of Los Angeles  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

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DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

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September 23, 2005

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

**HURRICANE KATRINA TASK FORCE PLAN OF ACTION FOR PUBLIC SERVICES  
AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION (Syn. #65-A)**

On September 6, 2005, on a motion from Supervisor Burke, your Board directed the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) to convene a task force, comprised of County departments and other agencies, to develop guidelines and a process to provide expedited public services to qualified, displaced families relocating temporarily or permanently to Los Angeles County as a result of Hurricane Katrina. The process should include anti-fraud measures; private sector involvement; and an information dissemination plan using Call 211 and the County's website.

During your September 13, 2005 Board meeting, several members of the Hurricane Katrina Evacuees' Task Force gave interim oral reports to your Board.

The following report describes actions taken in response to your Board's direction.

**HURRICANE KATRINA EVACUEES' TASK FORCE**

**Background**

On Saturday, September 3, 2005, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) called the administrator for the CAO Office of Emergency Management to ask how many Hurricane Katrina evacuees Los Angeles County could accept on an urgency basis if the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) decided it would be necessary to relocate them from Houston and surrounding areas. State OES indicated that, in all likelihood, if FEMA relocated evacuees to Los Angeles County, it would be on a permanent basis. OEM subsequently contacted the Chief Administrative Officer, Board Offices, key County departments, the City of Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles



Chapter of the American Red Cross (ARC) so that the figure given to State OES would be well-considered. The goal was to establish a single, coordinated number that could be reported to OES with confidence, knowing that all involved departments and agencies would be able to fulfill their respective missions to provide mass care and shelter, public services, and assistance with longer-term housing. The need for multi-agency evacuee planning fit well with Supervisor Burke's motion to form a task force which had been shared with OEM on September 2, 2005. To achieve short-term planning goals, OEM contacted departments and agencies over the holiday weekend. The first meeting of the Hurricane Katrina Evacuees' Task Force was held via conference call on Monday, September 5, 2005. A list of participating agencies is attached. To ensure well-coordinated plans, OEM facilitated the Task Force meetings, with Supervisor Molina's Office and the Los Angeles City Mayor's Office serving as co-chairs.

Given the short notice and the projected need for shelter and essential human services, the Task Force ultimately jointly agreed that the County Operational Area would be able to accept 1,000 evacuees. In addition to the "formal" FEMA evacuees, the group recognized that a number of disaster victims would independently relocate to Los Angeles County. Consequently, County and City departments also immediately began to plan for the short- and mid-term human service needs of the independent, spontaneous evacuees.

#### **TASK FORCE ACTIONS**

- The Community Development Commission took the lead in identifying shelter locations that could potentially be used for an extended period of time. The Los Angeles Chapter of the ARC reviewed the sites and subsequently approved the list for use as ARC shelters.
- The City of Los Angeles coordinated with Airports and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to determine methods and capacities for moving evacuees from airports to various shelter locations.
- The Administrative Offices of the County (CAO Public Affairs) and City of Los Angeles coordinated the creation of "Welcome Packets" designed to provide evacuees with a wide range of important local information. These packets have been distributed to key County and City public service departments, the ARC, community-based organizations, and with other cities that may be contacted by evacuees in need of assistance.
- Supervisor Molina's office, the Office of the Mayor, and several other Board offices made outreach to local private industry (hotels, chambers of commerce, etc.) to determine if additional support might be available.
- The County Office of Education (COE) said they would coordinate with individual schools and assist with the school registration process based on the location of shelters within specific school districts. Students will self-register with the



appropriate school district. COE also provided school registration information in the Welcome Packets. In addition, COE will provide on-site education programs for students on an "as needed" basis until students are able to register with the appropriate school district and start attending class.

- The City of Los Angeles took the lead in developing a Reception Center plan to receive arriving evacuees. Plan development was a team effort by both County and City personnel. The response component includes representation from a wide range of City and County departments, as well as the American Red Cross, state agencies, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The plan is centered on the activation of a reception center in Westchester that will provide key public services in a "one-stop" environment. The County and City also established a joint activation policy and protocol. The Center will only be activated by joint concurrence between the Office of the Mayor and the Office of the Chair of the Board, based on the arrival of large numbers of FEMA evacuees in need of a centralized one-stop service center. The Center will not be a 24-hour operation; rather it will be open during normal business hours or based on need.
- Animal Care and Control is prepared to care for evacuees' pets, including sick and injured animals. With the exception of service animals, the ARC does not allow pets in shelters.
- The ARC will issue debit cards that range from \$360 for individuals to \$1,500 for a family of five. The ARC designed these cards to help evacuees with food and incidentals for a two-week period. The ARC can also offer hotel vouchers.

### **Department of Public Social Services**

The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) formed a multi-disciplinary team that can assess evacuees' needs for a variety of human services programs. DPSS has coordinated with Mental Health; Health Services' Emergency Medical Services and Public Health; Children and Family Services; and Community and Senior Services to ensure coordinated and comprehensive service delivery. Eligibility staff have been provided with instructions which clearly delineate the eligibility and documentation requirements for Katrina evacuees, including expedited processing procedures. Eligibility and documentation requirements vary by program. In general, applicants may sign affidavits when required documentation is not available. To expedite applications for Katrina evacuees:

- Cases are assigned to centralized/specialized Eligibility Workers who become experts in processing the Katrina applications, including making referrals for other needed services (Mental Health, Children's' Services, Health Services, etc.)
- Katrina applications are eligible for expedited processing by virtue of their circumstances and emergent need for benefits, assuming they meet the eligibility requirements.

- Evacuees are encouraged to register with the FEMA 1-800 Tele-registration number to ensure that they avail themselves of all applicable FEMA benefits.

Assistance is granted for a limited period of time (month of application plus three months) in order to give applicants time to gather needed documentation if ongoing assistance is needed. DPSS has incorporated the following anti-fraud measures to ensure only legitimate victims apply for Federal, State, or local services:

- DPSS, in conjunction with the Internal Services Department, has developed a web application for tracking information and services provided for each family/individual. The site will use social security numbers, FEMA numbers, and case numbers as controls.
- DPSS provided eligibility staff with information regarding hurricane-impacted cities. Staff will review the information to verify that the addresses provided by applicants are in the disaster-stricken areas.
- Fingerprint requirements continue to apply for CalWORKS and General Relief applications. Portable finger imaging equipment is available for applicants residing in shelters.

## INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

The CAO's Public Affairs Office coordinated the update of two County websites, including the Office of Emergency Management's Operational Area website, with information and referrals for evacuees and those wishing to donate money, goods, or services.

The Call 2-1-1 program quickly geared up to handle a large number of phone calls from evacuees; volunteers; agencies and individuals wishing to make donations; and others. Specifically, 2-1-1 is acting as a clearing house able to refer evacuees and other callers to a wide range of public, volunteer, and non-profit services. To ensure the broadest possible use of the Call 2-1-1 system:

- The CAO Public Affairs office developed Welcome Packets with Call 211 information which were distributed to all 88 cities, COE, and the ARC.
- The OEM distributed Call 2-1-1 information via the Disaster Management Area Coordinators to all 88 cities. They also distributed the information to all registered *Emergency Management Information System* (EMIS) users via the EMIS e-mail notification system, and to all registered users representing cities, County departments and key contacts via the County's automated notification system, the *Communicator*.



In response to an amendment to the original Board motion, on September 12, 2005, your Board received an independent report from Dr. David Sanders, Director of the Department of Children and Family Services, advising that the department has been successful in locating all children under County purview that were placed with relatives/foster parents/adoptive parents residing in the Gulf Coast area.

## **CURRENT STATUS**

The Office of Emergency Management continues to participate in regular conference calls with State OES regarding the status of evacuees. Approximately one week after learning that the County might receive Katrina evacuees on an urgency basis, we were notified that FEMA had put a moratorium on the airlifts in order to assess their plans. We were advised to continue with our planning process; however, we understood that the situation was fluid. The County is currently on notice that we could potentially receive Katrina evacuees that may have to be relocated out of the Houston area because of Hurricane Rita.

Thanks to the efforts of the Task Force, the County Operational Area is ready to welcome and shelter evacuees that may be relocated as a result of either Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita. Planning subgroups continue to meet and the full Task Force continues to hold periodic conference calls to discuss relevant issues.

We will keep your Board informed of significant changes when they occur.

DEJ:CP  
KG:cm

Attachment

c: County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Emergency Management Council  
Hurricane Katrina Task Force  
Emergency Management Council Steering Committee  
Emergency Management Council Subcommittee  
Each Board Emergency Preparedness Deputy